Parlier Local Advisory Group
Questions and Topics to Consider and Discuss

The Department of Pesticide Regulation is conducting an environmental justice pilot project in Parlier, one of several pilot projects the California Environmental Protection Agency is doing. They are all designed to help us better understand and find ways to reduce environmental health risks, particularly to children. For its project, DPR will monitor community air in and around Parlier for pesticides. The project is expected to last 16 to 18 months.

In conjunction with the project, DPR has formed a Local Advisory Group (LAG) to bring together community members to exchange information, concerns, and ideas about the project. Although the LAG is not a decision-making group, its views will influence how we do our project.

We would like to start monitoring as soon as possible. Before we begin, there are a number of topics we would like to get input on from the LAG. In addition, there are other pesticide- and project-related topics we would like to discuss with the LAG after the project begins.

Question/Issue	Considerations/Background
To be decided before the project starts:	
1) Do you have questions on the objectives? Should there be others? Would you like to revise these?	These are DPR's overall objectives: a) Are residents of Parlier exposed to pesticides in the air? b) Which pesticides are people exposed to and in what amounts? c) Do measured pesticide air levels exceed levels that would be of health concern, particularly to children?
2) How should project air monitoring resources be allocated? *To decide this, we need to address questions 3, 4, and 5.*	DPR has assigned one chemist to work on this project full time. The number of samples he or she can analyze will depend on what pesticides we decide to monitor for, as some pesticides take more time to analyze than others. Similarly, DPR field staff can collect a fixed number of samples, so setting up more monitoring sites would mean less samples at any one location.
3) Number of sampling locations.	In a project of this type, DPR would typically set up 2 to 4 sampling locations. In a community the size of Parlier, 2 sampling locations would probably be sufficient to measure air concentrations. However, 4 would provide more data. Whether this additional data would significantly affect

	the resulting analysis cannot be known until it is collected. If we set up only two locations, that leaves us more resources for other project-related work. For example, we could collect more samples at those locations. Or we may be able to do periodic monitoring in another area community.
4) Number of samples to be collected each week.	In a project like this, we typically would collect two to four samples per week for 52 weeks at each location. The number we collect varies depending on the number of pesticides and locations monitored. That is, if we monitor at fewer locations, or monitor fewer pesticides, we can collect more samples.
5) Number of pesticides to be monitored, and which ones.	For this project, monitoring can be done up to 27 pesticides. At DPR's request, the Air Resources Board will monitor for methyl bromide and 1,3-dichloropropene (Telone). DPR is using a screening method for other pesticides that allows a large number of pesticides to be measured in a single laboratory analysis. The screen DPR uses includes about 24 pesticides. Pesticides not on the screen require a separate laboratory analysis for each pesticide. Project resources will allow DPR to sample for one additional pesticide. Because of its high use and toxicity concerns, we would recommend that we monitor for metam-sodium, (The monitoring is actually done for metam-sodium's breakdown product, MITC.)

6) Locations to set up sampling equipment	You know the community best. DPR recommends locating air samplers on the edge of town, near agricultural fields and orchards. The usual locations are schools and similar "sensitive sites."
	
	What sites would you select, based on these minimum conditions:
	• Location meets U.S. EPA minimum standard, which says that samplers must be placed:
	  o About 6 to 50 feet above the ground.
	  o At least 70 feet from trees.
	  o A minimum required distance from roofs, nearby buildings and similar structures.
	  o An unobstructed airflow nearly in a full circle around the sampling device.
	• Site must be accessible to sampling personnel

	during time of sampling (that is, to set up, check, and collect the devices). • Must have accessible electrical outlets. • Secure from equipment loss or tampering. • Permission from site operator/owner.
Project-related questions that don't need to be addressed before monitoring can begin:	
7) Do you think we need to keep our sampling plan confidential?	In the past, some have alleged that growers might change their pesticide use practices if they knew when and where we planned to monitor. We have found no evidence that this has occurred, but it is a concern that has been raised in the past and we wanted the LAG to be aware of it. By the way, our sampling <u>results</u> will NOT be kept confidential. As soon as we have results put together (that is, when we have done quality checks on the data), we will share them with the LAG and the public.
8) What is the best way for DPR to communicate with the community about the project?	In the past, we have used some or all of these methods, alone or in various combinations. You know your community. Which methods do you think would work best? And what have we not thought of? • Methods: meetings, phone, mail, email, Web page, distribution of printed materials at libraries, health centers • Frequency: monthly, quarterly • Level of detail: results for individual samples or a summary. • Translation: which documents should be translated, fact sheets and overviews, or all documents (some are quite technical and lengthy).
9) What are your greatest pesticide concerns?	We may be able to target additional data collection or future projects to provide information on: • Pesticides in water or food. • Specific types of pesticides (e.g., insecticides, herbicides, fumigants). • Pesticides used close to Parlier, or pesticides from applications far way. • Pesticides used during a specific season. • Pesticides that cause cancer, lung diseases, o other illnesses. • Pesticides that may affect children more.
10) What are your other environmental concerns?	Some data may already be available on the substances listed below. Other data is not being collected at this time in the Parlier area. Knowing your priorities may help us persuade other agencies to collect additional data on such pollutants as: • Criteria air pollutants (ozone, particulate matter, or others)

	• Toxic air contaminants (volatile organic compounds, metals) • Drinking water (pesticides, nitrates, bacteria) • Hazardous waste sites
11) Children's Environmental Health Risk Reduction Plan (ChERPP)	Based on the data we collect and our evaluation, we will be developing a risk reduction plan. (All the EJ pilot projects have this goal, to develop at Children's Environmental Health Risk Reduction Plan). Although all of the examples below are important, we must decide what to focus on first, since government resources are always limited. Do you have any thoughts now on what our priorities should be? (You may have different ideas on this as the project proceeds.) Examples of priorities might be: • Pesticide alternatives and IPM education for growers. • Community education on how to report pesticide problems or illegal applications. • Increased enforcement of laws and regulations.. • Better worker training. • Better physician training in how to recognize and treat pesticide illness. • Additional air or other monitoring. • Other risk reduction measures you think are important.
12) Other pesticide-related areas of interest	As the project proceeds, do you wish to know more about any pesticide topic? For example, we could schedule presentations from our staff on: 1) Pest management 2) Pesticide safety, either in the home or in the field. 3) Home pesticide use 4) How pesticide laws are enforced 5) Community outreach 6) Educational presentations on our sampling methods to local schools, community groups, etc.

Prepared, June 2005